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# PRESIDENT ASSURES BELGRADE U.S. BACKS NONALIGNED STATUS

## HE RENEWS AFGHAN PROPOSAL

On Trip to Yugoslavia, Carter Calls  
for Interim Regime in Kabul—  
Soviet Attitude Unclear

By **TERENCE SMITH**

Special to The New York Times

**BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, June 24** — President Carter assured Yugoslavia's new collective leadership today of continued American support for its policy of nonalignment and renewed his call for a similarly nonaligned regime in Afghanistan.

Mr. Carter arrived here from Venice on a state visit that his aides conceded was politically overdue, coming six weeks after the funeral of President Tito. He used his toast at a state dinner tonight to reiterate America's willingness to help in the establishment of a "truly independent, nonaligned Afghanistan" if the Soviet Union agreed to withdraw its forces from that country.

"We would be prepared to explore a transitional arrangement," he said, "to be implemented along with the prompt withdrawal of all Soviet troops from Afghanistan, for the purpose of restoring peace and tranquillity to that suffering country."

### Afghan Proposal Made Earlier

The proposal for a transitional government in Afghanistan, possibly backed up by a United Nations or Moslem peace-keeping force, was made by the United States and its allies as early as February. However, it seemed significant that Mr. Carter chose to mention it again, after this weekend's announcement of an initial withdrawal of Soviet troops. American officials traveling with the President cautioned, however, that there were no new indications that the Russians were interested in the proposal.

Mr. Carter was renewing it on the eve of the scheduled visit to Moscow by Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of West Germany. Mr. Schmidt, with whom Mr. Carter met in Venice, is scheduled to have private talks with the Soviet leader, Leonid I. Brezhnev.

### Pullout 'Not Significant'

Zbigniew Brzezinski, the President's national security adviser, discussed the proposal for a transitional Afghan regime in a television interview taped here today. "This is a position," he said, "that still remains open and our hope is that the Soviet Government increasingly realizes — and we hope that it does — that its invasion of Afghanistan is damaging; then these proposals will be considered more seriously."

At the same time, Mr. Brzezinski said that he regarded the recent announced Soviet troop withdrawal as "not significant." He said that the withdrawal was more than counterbalanced by intelligence reports that "in the last two weeks the numbers of Soviet troops in Afghanistan have actually increased." He said

some estimates showed that the number may be as high as 110,000.

Yugoslavia, a Communist neighbor of the Soviet Union that has had difficulties with Moscow over the years, was alarmed by the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan last December and condemned it, as did other nations that profess nonalignment. Earlier this week Yugoslavia welcomed the announced Soviet troop withdrawal even though Mr. Carter and other Western leaders at the seven-nation economic summit conference expressed skepticism about its significance.

American officials say that Yugoslavia's leaders have privately denounced Soviet policy in Afghanistan. But reflecting the delicacy of Yugoslavia's situation, the leaders' emphasis in public speeches here tonight was on the need for continued pursuit of détente.

### Détente 'a Universal Process'

"It is our firm belief that the surmounting of existing conflicts and the renewal of détente are possible provided all countries fully respect the principal of noninterference and peaceful settlement of disputes," said Cvijetin Mijatovic, the temporary president of the collective leadership that has succeeded Marshal Tito. He added that détente should "be pursued as a universal process, a process not leaving out any region."

Although Mr. Mijatovic appeared to be concentrating during Mr. Carter's one-day visit on the Afghan situation, the President took pains to assuage any disappointment here at his failure to attend the state funeral for Marshal Tito last month. Vice President Mondale attended in his place.

In a day that included meetings with the leaders, a private lunch at an outdoor restaurant, sightseeing and even a brief circle dance with a Yugoslav folk troupe, Mr. Carter's first stop after arrival was a visit to Marshal Tito's impressive tomb overlooking Belgrade.

The President bowed silently with closed eyes for about 40 seconds before the white marble tomb after placing a large wreath of red roses before it. Throughout the day he praised the late leader as a man of exceptional courage and vision.

### Crowds Light but Friendly

The crowds that lined the routes of the President's motorcade were mostly light, but they seemed friendly. Despite heavy security, Mr. Carter stopped his limousine several times to shake hands and wave.

In the afternoon, Mr. Carter, his wife, Rosalynn, and daughter, Amy, visited Kalemegdan Park, the site of a 2,000-year-old fortress that commands the confluence of the Danube and Sava Rivers. After inspecting an archeological dig on the promontory, the Carters watched and then joined a troupe of about 25 brightly costumed Yugoslav folk dancers. At the urging of two of the women dancers, the President joined hands and circled somewhat hesitantly in a traditional dance.

Tomorrow, Mr. Carter is scheduled to fly to Madrid, the penultimate stop on his European tour that will include brief talks in Lisbon before he returns to Washington Thursday.